

Oral Questions

Government come out with a real, coherent energy policy rather than bits and pieces from time to time?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House know that the Hon. Member was a very strong advocate of the NEP. We do not share that view. In the last election we campaigned on a platform of dismantling the NEP, and we did that. We brought in the Western Accord, which has been very well accepted. That is the basic policy. The fact of the matter is that when there was a rapid decline in oil prices, as the Hon. Member is aware, the Government responded. This was the latest response. The province has responded. The industry has responded. We hope the Hon. Member will respond by being co-operative and seeing that the legislation is passed with all due dispatch.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

USE OF LAPRADE FUND—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The Minister denied what was said by Mr. Mackay of DRIE before the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology on March 18, namely that for the time being, he was unaware to what extent the \$40 million from the Laprade and Lower St. Lawrence Fund in the Gaspé would be specifically earmarked for these regions or for regions immediately adjacent.

Mr. Speaker, is there a possibility that part of the Laprade Fund will leave our area to go to one of the regions immediately adjacent to ours? Who is telling the truth? The Minister or Mr. Mackay?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can rest assured that no part of the Laprade Fund will be earmarked for regions other than those originally specified. The Hon. Member can also rest assured that the reason we are using permanent jobs as one of the criteria, unlike the temporary jobs originally created by the former Laprade Fund, is because we have regional Members who are taking the interests of local workers to heart.

NEED TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I said I was going to be the Laprade Fund watchdog, and I intend to play that role to the end.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge the Government to promote the development of the aerospace industry in our region. My question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Since when have local economic partners been aware of this new development approach for the Mauricie—Bois-Franc region being promoted by the Government through its use of the Laprade Fund? Will the Minister retain sufficient funds to complete the industrial, commercial and tourism infrastructures already identified by local economic partners?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I have said time and time again, when we came to power in September 1984, there was \$87.3 million left in the Laprade Fund. These \$87.3 million will be spent in the Laprade region. They will be spent on creating permanent jobs. They will be spent in the areas identified by local economic partners and by local Members who have made many representations urging the development of a program for the creation of permanent employment, instead of the program for temporary employment on which the previous Government spent \$112.7 million, with very few economic results.

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HEALTH

TOBACCO—PROPOSED GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO PROTECT CANADIANS' HEALTH

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns the regulations and legislative measures he intends to introduce in the House soon to protect the health of Canadians. Can he assure the House that these measures will be as adequate as or perhaps even better than the provisions of my own Bill C-204? Will all non-smoking employees under federal jurisdiction, including the Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Crown corporations and Parliament Hill staff be entitled to a smoke-free workplace? And will tobacco advertising be banned outright?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I repeat today what I have said many times, that is, the Government is working on a tobacco policy and when it is ready it will be announced.

GOVERNMENT'S TOBACCO POLICY

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I think Canadians and all health agencies that are supporting my Bill C-204 want to know whether this is a serious attempt or whether this is an attempt to undermine the growing support for that Bill. Will the Minister assure the House that the measures he will introduce will be serious ones and, particularly in the case of advertising, that they will not be a half measure which will make things worse by allowing advertisers to shift from one type of advertising to another? Will it be a serious measure, or is he just playing with Canadians for his own publicity purposes?